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КАШТАНКА

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1. KASHTANKA

(A Story)

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2

Молодая рыжая собака, очень похожая мордой на лисицу, бегала взад и вперёд по тротуару и беспокойно оглядывалась по сторонам. Она старалась дать себе отчёт: как это могло случиться, что она заблудилась?

2. A YOUNG dog, a reddish mongrel, between a dachshund and a "yard-dog," very like a fox in face, was running up and down the pavement looking uneasily from side to side. From time to time she stopped and, whining and lifting first one chilled paw and then another, tried to make up her mind how it could have happened that she was lost.



3

День начался с того, что её хозяин, столяр Лука Александрыч, надел шапку, взял подмышку какую-то деревянную штуку, завёрнутую в красный платок, и крикнул: „Каштанка, пойдём!“

3. The day had begun by her master Luka Alexandritch's putting on his hat, taking something wooden under his arm wrapped up in a red handkerchief, and calling: "Kashtanka, come along!"



От радости, что её взяли гулять, Наштанка вела себя крайне неприлично: прыгала, забегала во дворы и гонялась за собаками. Столяр то и дело терял её из виду и сердито кричал на неё.

4. Kashtanka remembered that on the way she had behaved extremely improperly. In her delight that she was being taken for a walk she jumped about, dashed barking after the trains, ran into yards, and chased other dogs.



Побывав у заказчиков, столяр зашёл к сестре, у которой пил и закусывал, потом в трактир, из трактира к нуму. Одним словом, когда Каштанка попала на незнакомый тротуар, то уже вечерело и столяр был пьян, как сапожник.

5. After having left the work where it had been bespoke, Luka Alexandritch went into his sister's and there had something to eat and drink; from his sister's he had gone to see a bookbinder he knew; from the bookbinder's to a tavern, from the tavern to another crony's, and so on. In short, by the time Kashtanka found herself on the unfamiliar pavement, it was getting dusk, and the carpenter was as drunk as a cobbler.



Он подзывал к себе Каштанку и говорил ей: „Ты, Каштанка, насекомое существо и больше ничего. Супротив человека ты всё равно, что плотник супротив столяра...”

6. He called Kashtanka to him, and said to her: "You, Kashtanka, are an insect of a creature, and nothing else. Beside a man, you are much the same as a joiner beside a cabinet-maker. . . ."



Вдруг загремела музыка. Наштанка оглянулась и увидела, что прямо на неё шёл полк солдат. Не вынося музыки, она заметалась, завывала и бросилась на другой тротуар.

7. While he talked to her in that way, there was suddenly a burst of music. Kashtanka looked round and saw that a regiment of soldiers was coming straight towards her. Unable to endure the music, which unhinged her nerves, she turned round and round and wailed. Seeing that her master did not protest, Kashtanka whined louder than ever, and dashed across the road to the opposite pavement.



Когда она опомнилась, музыка уже не играла и полка не было. Она перебежала дорогу к тому месту, где оставила хозяина, но столяра там не было.

8. When she recovered herself, the band was not playing and the regiment was no longer there. She ran across the road to the spot where she had left her master, but alas, the carpenter was no longer there.



9

Наштанка бегала взад и вперёд и не находила хозяина, а между тем становилось темно. Мимо Наштанки проходили незнакомые заказчики. (Всё человечество Наштанка делила на хозяев и заказчиков).

9. Kashtanka ran up and down and did not find her master, and meanwhile it had got dark. The street lamps were lighted on both sides of the road, and lights appeared in the windows. Big, fluffy snowflakes were falling and painting white the pavement, the horses' backs and the cabmen's caps, and the darker the evening grew the whiter were all these objects. Unknown customers kept walking incessantly to and fro, obstructing her field of vision and shoving against her with their feet. (All mankind Kashtanka divided into two uneven parts: masters and customers).



Вдруг подъездная дверь щёлкнула и ударила её по боку. Из отворенной двери вышел какой-то человек. Наштанка попала ему под ноги. Он нагнулся к ней и спросил: „Псина, ты откуда? Я тебя ушиб? Ну, не сердись... Виноват“.

11. When her head and back were entirely plastered over with the soft feathery snow, and she had sunk into a painful doze of exhaustion, all at once the door of the entrance clicked, creaked, and struck her on the side. She jumped up. A man belonging to the class of customers came out. As Kashtanka whined and got under his feet, he could not help noticing her. He bent down to her and asked: "Doggy, where do you come from? Have I hurt you? O, poor thing, poor thing. . . . Come, don't be cross, don't be cross. . . . I am sorry."



12

Наштанка лизнула ему руку и заскулила ещё жалостнее. – „А ты хорошая, смешная! Совсем лисица! Ну, что ж, делать нечего, пойдём со мной!“

12. Catching in the stranger's voice a warm, cordial note, Kashtanka licked his hand, and whined still more pitifully. "Oh, you nice funny thing!" said the stranger. "A regular fox! Well, there's nothing for it, you must come along with me! Perhaps you will be of use for something. . . Well!"



13

Через полчаса она уже сидела на полу в большой, светлой комнате и с умилением глядела на незнакомца. Он ел и бросал ей кусочки.

13. Not more than half an hour later she was sitting on the floor in a big, light room, and, leaning her head against her side, was looking with tenderness and curiosity at the stranger who was sitting at the table, dining. He ate and threw pieces to her. . .



14

После обеда она разлеглась посреди комнаты и, виляя хвостом, решала вопрос: где лучше – у незнакомца или у столяра? Неожиданно ею овладела грусть.

14. After dinner she lay down in the middle of the room, stretched her legs and, conscious of an agreeable weariness all over her body, wagged her tail. While her new master, lounging in an easy-chair, smoked a cigar, she wagged her tail and considered the question, whether it was better at the stranger's or at the carpenter's. Kashtanka lay down on the mattress and shut her eyes; the sound of a bark rose from the street, and she would have liked to answer it, but all at once she was overcome with unexpected melancholy.



Но скоро утомление и теплота взяли верх над грустью... Она стала засыпать.

15. But soon exhaustion and warmth prevailed over melancholy. She began to fall asleep.



16

Когда Наштанка проснулась, было уже светло. Она обнюхала углы, не нашла ничего интересного и поцарапалась в дверь. В следующей комнате на кровати спал вчерашний незнакомец.

16. When Kashtanka woke up it was already light. There was not a soul in the room. Kashtanka stretched, yawned and, cross and ill-humoured, walked about the room. She sniffed the corners and the furniture, looked into the passage and found nothing of interest there. Besides the door that led into the passage there was another door. After thinking a little Kashtanka scratched on it with both paws, opened it, and went into the adjoining room. Here on the bed, covered with a rug, a customer, in whom she recognised the stranger of yesterday, lay asleep.



17

Из спальни вела куда-то ещё одна дверь. Наштанка отворила её и тотчас же почувствовала очень подозрительный запах. Она увидела нечто неожиданное и страшное.

17. In the bedroom was another door, also closed. Kashtanka scratched at the door, leaned her chest against it, opened it, and was instantly aware of a strange and very suspicious smell. She saw something surprising and terrible.



Пригнув к земле шею и голову, растопылив крылья и шипя, прямо на неё шёл гусь. Белый кот выгнул спину в дугу и тоже зашипел.

18. A grey gander came straight towards her, hissing, with its neck bowed down to the floor and its wings outspread. Not far from him, on a little mattress, lay a white tom-cat; seeing Kashtanka, he jumped up, arched his back, wagged his tail with his hair standing on end and he, too, hissed at her.



Собака испугалась не на шутку. Она залилась громким, визгливым лаем. В это время гусь подошёл и долбанул её клювом в спину.

19. The dog was frightened in earnest, but not caring to betray her alarm, began barking loudly and dashed at the cat . . . meanwhile the gander came up behind and gave her a painful peck in the back. Kashtanka leapt up and dashed at the gander.



– Это что такое? – слышался сердитый голос. – Дра-
ку подняли? На место! Надо жить дружно. – Незнакомец
погладил Каштанку. – Постой, как же мы тебя звать
будем?.. Вот что, ты будешь Тётка... Понимаешь? Тётка!

20. "What's this?" They heard a loud angry voice. "What's the meaning of this? To your places!" Kashtanka began whining resentfully, while the gander craned his neck and began saying something rapidly, excitedly, distinctly, but quite unintelligibly. "All right, all right," said his master, yawning. "You must live in peace and friendship." He stroked Kashtanka and went on: "And you, redhair, don't be frightened. . . Stay, what are we to call you? You can't go on without a name, my dear." The stranger thought a moment and said: "I tell you what . . . you shall be Auntie. . . Do you understand? Auntie!"



Хозяин вышел. Наштанка села и стала наблюдать. Нот сидел и делал вид, что спит. Гусь, топчась на одном месте, продолжал говорить что-то быстро и горячо!

21. And repeating the word "Auntie" several times he went out. Kashtanka sat down and began watching. The cat sat motionless on his little mattress, and pretended to be asleep. The gander, craning his neck and stamping, went on talking rapidly and excitedly about something.



22

Немного погодя, вошёл незнакомец и принёс накую-то странную вещь, похожую на ворота и на букву П. – „Иван Иваныч, пожалуйста!“

22. A little while afterwards the stranger came in again, and brought a strange thing with him like a hurdle, or like the figure II. The stranger put the frame in the middle of the room, spent a long time tying and untying something, then looked at the gander and said: "Ivan Ivanitch, if you please!"



– Начнём с самого начала. Поклонись и сделай реверанс. – Гусь вытянул шею и закивал во все стороны.

23. The gander went up to him and stood in an expectant attitude. "Now then," said the stranger, "let us begin at the very beginning. First of all, bow and make a curtsy! Look sharp!" Ivan Ivanitch craned his neck, nodded in all directions, and scraped with his foot.



24

Вдруг незнакомец изобразил на своём лице ужас и закричал: „Нараул! Пожар! Горим!“ – Иван Иваныч подбежал к П, взял в клюв верёвку и зазвонил в колокол. Незнакомец остался очень доволен.

24. After performing a few more similar, unimportant tricks, the stranger suddenly clutched at his head, and assuming an expression of horror, shouted: "Help! Fire! We are burning!" Ivan Ivanitch ran to the frame, took the string in his beak, and set the bell ringing. The stranger was very much pleased.



25

Через минуту отворилась дверь и какая-то старуха
впустила в комнату чёрную очень некрасивую свинью.

25. The door opened, an old woman looked in, and, saying something, led in a black and very ugly sow.



26

Иван Иваныч вскочил на спину свиньи, кот Фёдор Тимофеич взобрался на гуся и стал на задние лапы. Получилось то, что незнакомец называл египетской пирамидой.

26. "Come, let us begin with the Egyptian pyramid," began the master. He spent a long time explaining something, then gave the word of command, "One . . . two . . . three!" At the word "three" Ivan Ivanitch flapped his wings and jumped on to the sow's back. . . . When, balancing himself with his wings and his neck, he got a firm foothold on the bristly back, cat Fyodor Timofeyitch listlessly and lazily, with manifest disdain, and with an air of scorning his art and not caring a pin for it, climbed on to the sow's back, then reluctantly mounted on to the gander, and stood on his hind legs. The result was what the stranger called the Egyptian pyramid.



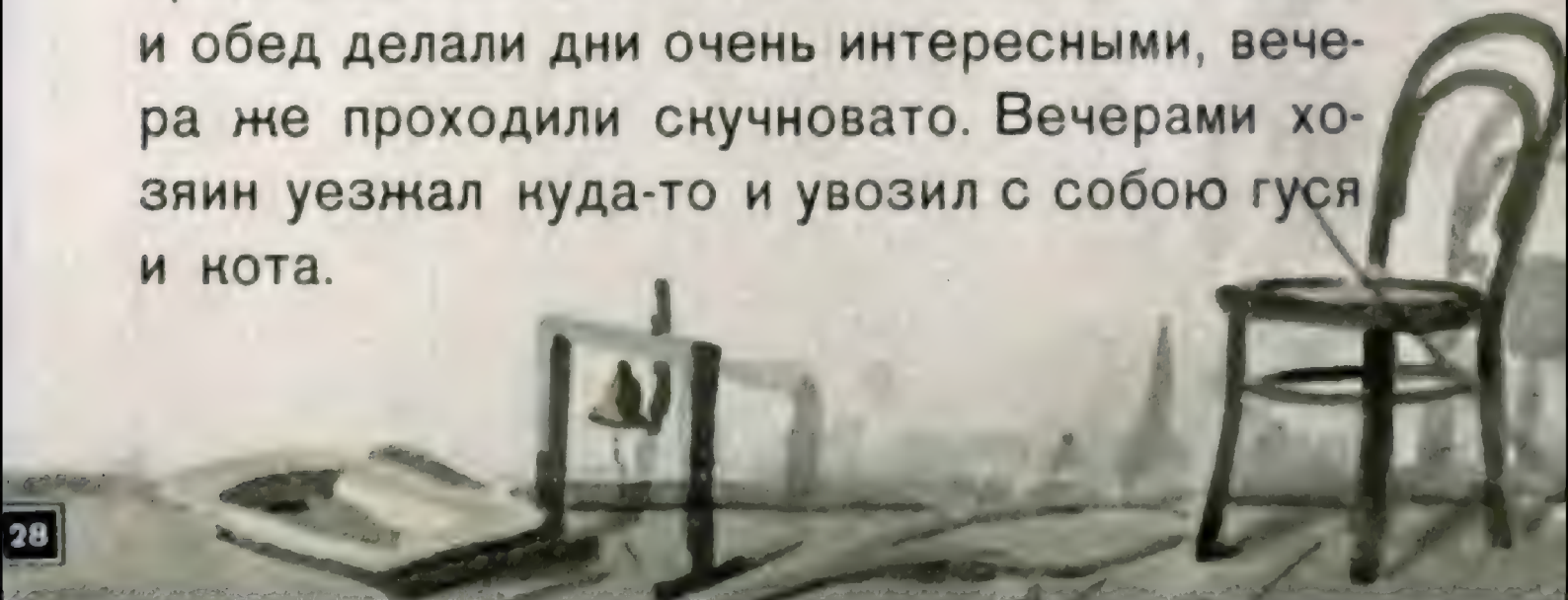
27

Благодаря массе новых впечатлений, день прошёл для Наштанки незаметно, а вечером она со своим матрасиком была уже водворена в комнату с грязными обоями и ночевала в обществе Фёдора Тимофеича и гуся.

27. Thanks to the number of her new impressions, Kashranka hardly noticed how the day passed, and in the evening she was installed with her mattress in the room with the dirty wall-paper, and spent the night in the society of Fyodor Timofeyitch and the gander.

Прошёл месяц. Каштанка уже привыкла к тому, что её кормили вкусным обедом и звали Тёткой. Привыкла она и к незнакомцу, и к своим новым сожителям.

Все дни начинались одинаково. В комнату вносились П, бич, обручи, и каждый день проделывалось почти одно и то же. Учение и обед делали дни очень интересными, вечера же проходили скучновато. Вечерами хозяин уезжал куда-то и увозил с собою гуся и кота.



28. A month passed. Kashtanka had grown used to having a nice dinner every evening, and being called Auntie. She had grown used to the stranger too, and to her new companions. Life was comfortable and easy. Every day began in the same way. Every day the frame, the whip, and the hoop were brought in, and every day almost the same performance took place. The lesson and the dinner made the day very interesting, but the evenings were tedious. As a rule, their master went off somewhere in the evening and took the cat and the gander with him.



Оставшись одна, Тётна ложилась на матрасик и начинала грустить. В воображении её появлялись какие-то две неясные фигуры, и она чувствовала, что от этих фигур пахнет клеем, стружками и лаком.

29. Left alone, Auntie lay down on her little mattress and began to feel sad. Melancholy crept on her imperceptibly and took possession of her by degrees, as darkness does of a room. Then vague figures, half dogs, half human beings, with countenances attractive, pleasant, but incomprehensible, would appear in her imagination. And as she dropped asleep, she always felt that those figures smelt of glue, shavings, and varnish.



30

Однажды хозяин сказал: „Пора нам, Тётна, делом заняться. Довольно тебе бить баклуши. Я хочу из тебя артистку сделать... Ты хочешь быть артисткой?"

30. When she had grown quite used to her new life, and from a thin, long mongrel, had changed into a sleek, well-groomed dog, her master looked at her one day before the lesson and said: "It's high time, Auntie, to get to business. You have kicked up your heels in idleness long enough. I want to make an artiste of you. . . Do you want to be an artiste?"



31

И он стал учить её разным наукам. В первый урок она училась стоять и ходить на задних лапах, что ей ужасно нравилось.

31. And he began teaching her various accomplishments. At the first lesson he taught her to stand and walk on her hind legs, which she liked extremely.



В следующие уроки она плясала, выла под музыку, звонила и стреляла,

32. After that, in the following lessons she danced, ran tied to a cord, howled to music, rang the bell, and fired the pistol,



33

а через месяц уже могла с успехом заменять Фёдора Тимофеича в египетской пирамиде. Училась она охотно и была довольна своими успехами.

33. and in a month could successfully replace Fyodor Timofeyitch in the "Egyptian Pyramid." She learned very eagerly and was pleased with her own success.



Всякий удавшийся фокус она сопровождала восторженным лаем, а учитель удивлялся и тоже приходил в восторг: „Талант! Талант! Ты положительно будешь иметь успех!”

34. She accompanied every successful trick with a shrill, delighted bark, while her teacher wondered, was also delighted, and rubbed his hands. "It's talent! It's talent!" he said. "Unquestionable talent! You will certainly be successful!"



35

Как-то Тётке приснился собачий сон, будто за нею гонится дворник с метлой, и она проснулась от страха. В комнате было тихо, темно и душно.

35. Auntie had a doggy dream that a porter ran after her with a broom, and she woke up in a fright. It was quite dark and very stuffy in the room.



36

Но вдруг раздался странный крик, который заставил её вздрогнуть. Это крикнул Иван Иванович, и крик его был дикий, пронзительный и неестественный.

36. But all at once there was a strange scream not far from her which made her start and jump up on all four legs. It was Ivan Ivanitch, and his cry was not babbling and persuasive as usual, but a wild, shrill, unnatural scream like the squeak of a door opening.



Крик не повторялся. Тётна мало-помалу успокоилась и задремала. Вдруг опять раздался пронзительный крик. – „К-ге! К-ге!“ – крикнул Иван Иваныч. В комнату вошёл хозяин.

37. Some time passed, as long as it takes to eat a good bone; the scream was not repeated. Little by little Auntie's uneasiness passed off and she began to doze.

And all at once there was again a shrill scream. "K-gee! K-gee-gee!" cried Ivan Ivanitch. Then there was the sound of shuffling slippers, and the master came into the room in his dressing-gown with a candle in his hand.



–Иван Иваныч, что с тобой?–Гусь молчал. Крылья у него были растопырены и клюв раскрыт.–Иван Иваныч! Умираешь ты, что ли? Ах, я вспомнил. Это оттого, что сегодня на тебя наступила лошадь.

38. "Ivan Ivanitch, what's the matter with you?" the master asked the gander. "Why are you screaming? Are you ill?" The gander did not answer. The gander was sitting in the same attitude as before, with his beak open, and his wings spread out, his eyes were closed. "Ivan Ivanitch!" his master called him. The gander did not stir. His master sat down before him on the floor, looked at him in silence for a minute, and said: "Ivan Ivanitch, what is it? Are you dying? Oh, I remember now, I remember!" he cried out, and clutched at his head. "I know why it is! It's because the horse stepped on you to-day! My God! My God!"



39

– Он умирает, Тётка. Да, да, умирает! И вам в комнату пришла смерть. Что нам делать? – Тётка не понимала, что говорит хозяин, но по его лицу видела, что он ждёт чего-то ужасного.

39. "He is dying, Auntie!" said her master, and wrung his hands. "Yes, yes, he is dying! Death has come into your room. What are we to do?" Auntie walked about round his feet, and not understanding why she was wretched and why they were all so uneasy, and trying to understand, watched every movement he made.



Гусь уже не шевелился и не открывал глаз. – „Ничего уже нельзя сделать! – вздохнул хозяин. – Всё кончено“. – Не понимая в чём дело, Тётка и Фёдор Тимофеич жались к нему и с ужасом смотрели на гуся.

40. Ivan Ivanitch did not stir and did not open his eyes. "No, there's nothing to be done now," sighed his master. "It's all over. Ivan Ivanitch is gone!" Not understanding what was the matter, Auntie and Fyodor Timofeyitch snuggled up to him and looked with horror at the gander.



41

Тётке казалось, что и с ней случится то же самое. Ей стало грустно и захотелось плакать. Она пошла под диван и начала скулить там тихо, тонким голосом.

41. It seemed to Auntie that the same thing would happen to her, that is, that she too, there was no knowing why, would close her eyes, stretch out her paws, open her mouth, and everyone would look at her with horror.



42

В один прекрасный вечер хозяин вошёл в комнату и сказал: „Сегодня я возьму с собой Тётку и Фёдора Тимофеича. В египетской пирамиде ты, Тётка, заменишь покойного Ивана Ивановича“.

42. One fine evening the master came into the room with the dirty wall-paper, and, rubbing his hands, said: "To-day I shall take with me Auntie and F'yodor Timofeyitch. To-day, Auntie, you will take the place of poor Ivan Ivanitch in the 'Egyptian Pyramid.'



43

Через некоторое время она уже сидела в санях около хозяина и слушала, как он бормотал: „Ничего не готово, репетиций было мало! Осрамимся! Провалимся!“

43. "Come along, Auntie," said her master. Wagging her tail, and understanding nothing, Auntie followed him. A minute later she was sitting in a sledge by her master's feet and heard him, shrinking with cold and anxiety, mutter to himself: "We shall be disgraced! We shall come to grief!"



44

Сани остановились около большого странного дома, похожего на опрокинутый супник.

44. The sledge stopped at a big strange-looking house, like a soup-ladle turned upside down.



45

Хозяин взял на руки Тётку и Фёдора Тимофеича и принёс их в маленькую комнату с серыми дощатыми стенами. Хозяин разделся и, глядя в зеркало, начал выделывать над собой удивительные штуки.

45. The master took Auntie in his arms and thrust her in his coat, where Fyodor Timofeyich already was. The cat mewed huskily under Auntie's paws, but at that moment the coat was flung open, the master said, "Hop!" and Fyodor Timofeyitch and Auntie jumped to the floor. They were now in a little room with grey plank walls. Their master, still agitated and rubbing his hands, began undressing... He undressed as he usually did at home when he was preparing to get under the rug, that is, took off everything but his underlinen, then he sat down on the stool, and, looking in the looking-glass, began playing the most surprising tricks with himself ...



46

Опачкавши лицо и шею, он облачился в какой-то необыкновенный костюм. У Тётки запестрело в глазах. От белолицей мешковатой фигуры пахло хозяином, но бывали минуты, когда Тётку мучили сомнения, и тогда она готова была лаять.

46. After smearing his face and neck, he began putting himself into an extraordinary and incongruous costume, such as Auntie had never seen before, either in houses or in the street. The white-faced, sack-like figure smelt like her master, its voice, too, was the familiar master's voice, but there were moments when Auntie was tortured by doubts, and then she was ready to run away from the parti-coloured figure and to bark.



Хозяина позвали. Он достал из-под табурета нота и сунул его в чемодан. Потом поцеловал Тётку в голову и положил рядом с Фёдором Тимофеичем.

47. "Monsieur George, come on!" someone shouted behind the door. Their master got up and crossed himself three times, then took the cat from under the stool and put him in the box. "Come, Auntie," he said softly. Auntie, who could make nothing out of it, went up to his hands, he kissed her on the head, and put her beside Fyodor Timofeyitch.



– А вот и я! А вот и я! – громко крикнул хозяин. В чемодане щёлкнул замок. Яркий свет ударил Тётку по глазам; она прыгнула вон из чемодана и залилась звонким лаем.

48. "Here we are again!" her master shouted aloud: "here we are again!" The lock of the box clicked. The bright light dazzled Auntie's eyes, she jumped out of the box, and, deafened by the roar, ran quickly round her master, and broke into a shrill bark.



– Ну-с, Тётушка, – сказал хозяин, – сначала мы с вами споём, а потом попляшем. – Он вынул из кармана дудочку и заиграл. Тётка, не вынося музыки, завывала.

49. "Now, Auntie!" said her master, "we'll have first a song, and then a dance, shall we?" He took a pipe out of his pocket, and began playing. Auntie, who could not endure music, began moving uneasily in her chair and howled.



– „Тятка, – крикнул детский голос. – А ведь это Наштан-
на!“ – „Наштанна и есть!“ – подтвердил пьяненький тено-
рок. – „Наштанна!“ – „Наштанна!“ – позвали два голоса.

50. "Auntie!" cried a child's voice, "why it's Kashtanka!"
"Kashtanka it is!" declared a cracked drunken tenor. "Kashtanka!
Strike me dead, Fedyushka, it is Kashtanka. Kashtanka! here!"
Someone in the gallery gave a whistle, and two voices, one a boy's
and one a man's, called loudly: "Kashtanka! Kashtanka!"



Тётка вздрогнула и посмотрела туда, где кричали.
Два лица ударили её по глазам, как раньше ударил
яркий свет...

51. Auntie started, and looked where the shouting came from. Two faces, one hairy, drunken and grinning, the other chubby, rosy-cheeked and frightened-looking, dazed her eyes as the bright light had dazed them before...



Она вспомнила и с радостным визгом бросилась
к этим лицам.

52. She remembered, fell off the chair, struggled on the sand, then
jumped up, and with a delighted yap dashed towards those faces.



53

Тётка прыгнула через барьер, потом переходила из рук на руки, подвигалась всё выше и выше и наконец попала на галёрку...

53. Auntie leaped over the barrier, then across someone's shoulders. She found herself in a box: to get into the next tier she had to leap over a high wall. Auntie jumped, but did not jump high enough, and slipped back down the wall. Then she was passed from hand to hand, licked hands and faces, kept mounting higher and higher, and at last got into the gallery...



Спустя полчаса Каштанка шла уже по улице за людьми, от которых пахло клеем и лаком.

54. Half an hour afterwards, Kashtanka was in the street, following the people who smelt of glue and varnish.

КОНЕЦ

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55

55. The end.